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Statement of Brian T. Lynch, O.D.  
Connecticut Association of Optometrists  
House Bill 6644  
Public Health Committee  
March 20, 2013

Sen. Gerratana, Rep. Johnson and members of the committee:

My name is Brian T. Lynch. I am an Optometric Doctor with a longstanding practice in Branford, Conn. I serve as legislative chairman for the Connecticut Association of Optometrists and would like to offer comments about Section 32 of House Bill 6644, ***An Act Concerning Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes.***

Section 32 will implement a new schedule of continuing education requirements for Optometrists. We support the new schedule.

Essentially, ODs will need to complete 20 hours of continuing education a year. Six hours minimum will need to be in pathologies and cover such issues as new techniques in Diabetes treatment. At least six hours will need to be in the area of Ocular Agents T. No more than six hours may be in the area of practice management and there is a similar limit on units derived from at-home or distance learning.

We believe this update to our continuing education rules is beneficial and we thank the Department of Public Health for its work in this area. We support Section 32 as drafted. Thank you.